



Arizona Vaccine News

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VACCINE NEWS

Temporary Suspension of Hib and Pneumococcal Conjugated Vaccines in Japan

- Japan has temporarily suspended vaccination with a *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccine [ActHIB] and a pneumococcal conjugate vaccine [Prevnar] as a precautionary measure while investigating four reports of death following shortly after vaccination. A panel of experts at Japan's health ministry found no direct link between the vaccines and the deaths, but further investigations are continuing.
- The FDA and CDC have not detected new safety concerns or unusual reporting patterns in the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) for Hib or pneumococcal conjugate vaccines among children vaccinated in the United States.
- The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) recommends that Arizona vaccine providers should continue to provide these vaccines to their patients.

For media coverage, see <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/08/japan-vaccine-idUSTOE72707L20110308>

ADHS GUIDANCE

Hib Vaccination Important through 59 Months Old

- A fourth dose of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) is needed through 59 months of age if a child's first 3 doses of Hib were given before a year of age.
- The 4th Hib dose is important for maintaining protective levels of Hib antibodies throughout childhood.
- Recommendations for catch-up vaccinations are available on the CDC Catch-up Immunization Schedule:
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/downloads/child/catchup-schedule-pr.pdf>

Annual Arizona Immunization Conference

- ADHS' annual immunization conference will be held on April 27-28, 2011 at the Black Canyon Conference Center.
- On-line registration and further information can be found at
<http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/immun/conf.htm>

VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES NEWS

Arizona Measles Update

- No further measles cases have been identified since a case of measles was diagnosed in Pima County in January, and an unrelated case of measles was diagnosed in February in Maricopa County. Both cases were infected with measles while travelling.
- Any provider suspecting measles in a patient should notify their local health department immediately.
- Suspect measles cases should be placed in airborne precautions as soon as possible.

Influenza Still at Widespread in Arizona

- Arizona remains at widespread influenza activity, although there has been some decrease in laboratory confirmed cases in the last two weeks.
- Influenza activity often continues into April.
- Consider continuing to offer influenza vaccine to patients who have not been vaccinated while influenza is still in the community, especially to high-risk patients.

The most recent information of influenza surveillance in Arizona can be found at the ADHS website at <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/oids/epi/flu/index.htm>.

LITERATURE ON VACCINES AND VACCINE PREVENTABLE-DISEASES

Risk of Recurrent Shingles

- A recent study showed a 6.2% rate of shingles recurrence within 8 years.
- The time between shingles in each individual ranged from 96 days to 10 years.
- Shingles recurrences were more likely in the immunocompromised, and in persons who had experienced shingles-associated pain of 30 days or longer at the first episode.
- Women and those over 50 years old at the first episode also had a greater likelihood of recurrence.

See abstract in *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*, February 2011 at
<http://mayoclinicproceedings.com/content/86/2/88.abstract>

Rotavirus Vaccine Decreases Nosocomial Rotavirus Infections

- Routine rotavirus vaccination in the community helps prevent spread of rotavirus among hospitalized children.
- Hospital-acquired rotavirus dropped more than 60% in the 2007-2008 season after implementation of routine rotavirus vaccination in the community.

See *Pediatrics*, February 2011. <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/peds.2010-1830v1>

Lower Antibody Titers in Infants Born to HIV-Positive Women

- HIV-exposed but uninfected newborns in South Africa had decreased antibody levels at birth to four vaccine preventable diseases: *Bordetella pertussis*, *Clostridium tetani*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib).
- HIV-positive mothers had reduced antibody levels to Hib and *S. pneumoniae* but not to *B. pertussis* or *C. tetani*. However, infant-maternal antibody level ratios showed a significant reduction in placental transfer of antibodies to all four diseases.
- HIV-exposed but uninfected infants had good antibody responses after immunization.

See abstract in *JAMA*, February 9, 2011. <http://jama.ama-assn.org/content/305/6/576.abstract>

VACCINE RESOURCES

New Joint Commission Monograph on Tdap

- The Joint Commission has released a monograph entitled "Tdap Vaccination Strategies for Adolescents and Adults, Including Health Care Personnel--Strategies from Research and Practice."
- Protection from pertussis vaccination wears off with time, so most adults are susceptible to pertussis unless they have received a pertussis vaccine booster (Tdap).
- Only about **16%** of healthcare workers in the United States have received Tdap.

To obtain a copy of the monograph, go to <http://www.jointcommission.org/tdap>.

History of Vaccines Website

- The College of Physicians of Philadelphia has created a website with pictures, videos, and articles documenting the history of vaccines.

See www.historyofvaccines.org

Brochure on Vaccine Safety Resources

- A colorful brochure with links to vaccine safety sites can be found at <http://www.immunize.org/vaccine-safety-resources.pdf>

Histories of Unvaccinated People

- Real-life accounts of people who have suffered or died from vaccine-preventable diseases can be found in personal testimonies, remembrances, case reports, and newspaper articles at <http://www.immunize.org/reports>.

- Please feel free to distribute ADHS' *Arizona Vaccine News* to any of your partners who may be interested. Past issues of *Arizona Vaccine News* can be found at: <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/immun/index.htm>